

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

CENTURLINK COMMUNICATIONS,
LLC, d/b/a LUMEN TECHNOLOGIES
GROUP; QWEST CORPORATION d/b/a
CENTURLINK QC; CENTURYTEL OF
WASHINGTON, INC.; CENTURYTEL
OF INTER ISLAND, INC.;
CENTURYTEL OF COWICHE, INC.;
UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY OF
THE NORTHWEST,

Respondents.

DOCKET UT-181051

STAFF'S MOTION TO
CONTINUE THE DEADLINE
FOR RESPONSES TO
PETITIONS FOR
RECONSIDERATION

I. INTRODUCTION

1 CenturyLink Communications, LLC (CenturyLink) and Public Counsel have each sought reconsideration of the Commission's final order in this docket; the Commission has, by order, authorized parties to respond to these petitions by July 14, 2023.¹ Staff seeks a 30-day continuance of that deadline due to unexpected death in the family of its lead counsel. If the Commission grants this request, all parties' responses to the petitions would be due August 14, 2023.

2 Staff has spoken with both CenturyLink and Public Counsel. Both supported the request for a continuance. Staff, however, has not been able to confer with the Washington Military Department about this request.

¹ *Wash. Utils. & Transp. Comm'n v. CenturyLink Commc'ns, LLC*, Docket UT-181051, Order 09, 3 ¶ 10 (June 22, 2023).

II. RELIEF REQUESTED

3 Staff respectfully requests that the Commission grant a 30-day continuance in the
deadline to file responses to the petitions for reconsideration filed by CenturyLink and
Public Counsel, such that parties' responses would be due August 14, 2023.

III. STATEMENT OF FACTS

4 On June 9, 2023, the Commission entered its final order resolving the complaint
Staff filed against CenturyLink in this docket.² CenturyLink timely petitioned the
Commission for reconsideration,³ as did Public Counsel.⁴ The Commission, by order,
authorized the parties to file responses to those petitions by July 14, 2023.⁵

5 On June 30, 2023, Staff's lead counsel emailed the undersigned attorney to state that
his father had passed away unexpectedly on the night of June 29, 2023.⁶ In a subsequent
conversation, lead counsel requested that the undersigned attorney seek a 30-day
continuance in the deadline for a response to CenturyLink's and Public Counsel's petitions
to allow him to address his loss.⁷

6 The undersigned attorney has spoken with representatives of CenturyLink and Public
Counsel.⁸ Both support the request for a continuance.⁹ Staff attempted to reach a

² *Wash. Utils. & Transp. Comm'n v. CenturyLink Commc'ns, LLC*, Docket UT-181051, Order 08 (June 9, 2022).

³ *Wash. Utils. & Transp. Comm'n v. CenturyLink Commc'ns, LLC*, Docket UT-181051, CenturyLink Communications, LLC's Petition for Reconsiderations (June 16, 2023).

⁴ *Wash. Utils. & Transp. Comm'n v. CenturyLink Commc'ns, LLC*, Docket UT-181051, Public Counsel's Petition for Reconsideration; Petition for Leave to Address Materials Subject to Official Notice in Order (June 20, 2023).

⁵ *Wash. Utils. & Transp. Comm'n v. CenturyLink Commc'ns, LLC*, Docket UT-181051, Order 09, 3 ¶ 10

⁶ Decl. of Jeff Roberson at 1 ¶ 4.

⁷ Decl. of Jeff Roberson at 1 ¶ 5.

⁸ Decl. of Jeff Roberson at 2 ¶ 6.

⁹ Decl. of Jeff Roberson at 2 ¶ 6.

representative of WMD, but received an auto-response stating that counsel would be out of the office until after the Independence Day holiday.¹⁰

IV. STATEMENT OF ISSUES

7 Should the Commission continue the deadline for parties to respond to the petitions
for reconsideration filed by CenturyLink and Public Counsel?

V. EVIDENCE RELIED UPON

8 Staff relies on the Declaration of Jeff Roberson, filed concurrently with this motion.

VI. ARGUMENT

9 The Commission allows parties to “request a continuance by oral or written
motion.”¹¹ It will grant such a motion “if the requesting party demonstrates good cause for
the continuance and the continuance will not prejudice any party of the commission.”¹² The
Commission will not grant an undefined continuance, and any party seeking one must
specify the new deadline it seeks.¹³

10 Staff’s request satisfies the Commission’s criteria the granting of a continuance.
Good cause supports Staff’s request: Staff’s lead counsel suffered a loss in his family and
seeks time to address that loss. The proposed continuance, which is short, will not prejudice
any party or the Commission. Each party would see their deadlines for submitting responses
continued, and the Commission is under no statutory deadlines that would compress its
consideration of the responses, once the party submits them.¹⁴ And Staff has specified the
date to which it seeks to continue the deadline for submitting responses.

¹⁰ Decl. of Jeff Roberson at 2 ¶ 7.

¹¹ WAC 480-07-385(2)(a).

¹² WAC 480-07-385(2)(a).

¹³ WAC 480-07-385(4).

¹⁴ See WAC 480-07-850(2).

VII. CONCLUSION

11 The Commission should grant Staff's motion and continue the date for filing responses to CenturyLink's and Public Counsel's petitions for reconsideration to Monday, August 14, 2023.

DATED this 30th day of June 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

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